

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05793 212242Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 A-01 CCO-00  
OC-06 FBOE-00 OPR-02 CA-01 SCS-06 /086 W  
-----021548 212247Z /64

O R 212220Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1768  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

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1. AS OF 1700 HOURS ON JULY 21, THE SITUATION IN BOLIVIA REMAINS UNCLEAR. PRO-PEREDA FORCES APPEAR TO BE IN POLITICAL CONTROL OF SANTA CRUZ AND THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THEY ALSO HOLD SWAY IN COCHABAMBA, BENI, PANDO AND TARIJA. THEY ARE DEMANDING THAT PEREDA BE INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT; AT LEAST SOME OF THE PRO-PEREDA GROUPS ARE ALSO CALLING FOR THE EXPULSION OF HERNAN SILEX FROM THE COUNTRY.

2. PRECISELY WHAT ROLE PEREDA IS PLAYING IN ALL THIS IS ALSO UNCLEAR. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE DEPARTED FOR COCHABAMBA AND SANTA CRUZ ON JULY 19 TO TRY TO CONVINCE HIS SUPPORTERS TO DROP THEIR DEMANDS AND ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE ELECTORAL COURT ANNULLING THE ELECTIONS. THERE IS SPECULATION, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY NOW HAVE CHANGED HIS POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT PEREDA CONTACTED BANZER THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 21 AND SAID THAT HE WAS DISPOSED TO "NEGOTIATE"--ALTHOUGH FOR WHAT, OR ON WHAT BASIS,

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05793 212242Z

IS UNKNOWN. BANZER RESPONDED BY SENDING AGRICULTURE MINISTER COLONEL NATUSCH BUSCH AND EDUCATION MINISTER COLONEL NINO GUZMAN BY PLANE TO SANTA CRUZ TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. THE TWO MINISTERS HAVE RETURNED TO LA PAZ AND ARE NOW MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BANZER.

3. SHORTLY AFTER MID-DAY PRESIDENT BANZER MADE A NATIONAL

RADIO ADDRESS. PART OF THE ADDRESS WAS POINTEDLY AIMED AT HIS NATIVE TOWN OF SANTA CRUZ. IN CONCILIATORY TONES HE CALLED FOR UNITY, BUT MAINTAINED STOUTLY THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES.

4. THE PRO-PEREDA FORCES HAVE BEEN BUTTRESSED BY VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL FLYABLE MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE DEPARTED LA PAZ FOR SANTA CRUZ. SOME ARMY UNITS, INCLUDING THOSE IN ROBORE AND YACUIBA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SANTA CRUZ, HAVE REPORTEDLY DECLARED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF A PEREDA PRESIDENCY. IN COCHABAMBA, HOWEVER, THE ARMY HAS STAYED NEUTRAL. CIVILIAN GROUPS HAVE COMMANDERED COCHABAMBA RADIO STATIONS AND THE TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS. THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY (WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED) HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY PEREDA PEOPLE, WHILE PRO-PEREDA PEASANT GROUPS REPORTEDLY THREW UP ROADBLOCKS ON THE ROAD TO THE TROPICAL CHAPARE REGION. DESPITE THESE OCCURRENCES, THE US CONSULAR AGENT IN COCHABAMBA REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN CALM, WITH APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THE BUSINESSES OPERATING NORMALLY.

4. THE ATMOSPHERE IN LA PAZ HAS ALSO BEEN GENERALLY CALM, WITH ONLY ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE. A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE AT ABOUT 2:30 A.M. ON JULY 20; ANOTHER WENT OFF AT A POLICE TRANSIT BOX IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 21. THE BOMBS CAUSED PROPERTY DAMAGE, BUT NO INJURIES. THERE IS AN UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT OF A KID-NAPPING IN CALACOTO, ALLEGEDLY CARRIED OUT BY MNRI ADHERENTS.

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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05793 212242Z

THUS FAR, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS INJURIES OR DEATHS IN LA PAZ OR ELSEWHERE IN BOLIVIA. THE SITUATION REMAINS BASICALLY CALM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND A 10:00 P.M. TO 6:00 AM. CURFEW WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUATION OF THIS STATE. THERE REMAINS A HIGH LEVEL OF EXPECTANCY AND TENSION AS ALL EYES ARE ON THE ARMED FORCES, WHOSE QUARRELS AND DIVISIONS ARE THE HEART OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

BOEKER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL STABILITY  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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